

Bible background

2 Samuel 9; 2 Samuel 4:4

Aim of lesson

To teach that God is pleased when we are kind to disabled people.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Teach that by now David had become king, and Jonathan his friend had been killed in battle. Jonathan's baby son had been dropped by accident by his nurse when she heard the news of Jonathan's death. The baby was crippled in both feet. As he grew up he could not walk properly; perhaps he had to use crutches. Ask the children if they know anyone who is crippled or who uses a stick to help them walk, or who uses a wheelchair. David invited him to live with him in the palace and always to have what he needed and have servants to help him. Ask the children how they think God felt about what David did.
2. Teach the song 'David was a kind king'. You could have each one of the class to choose a partner and form two lines with each one standing opposite his or her partner. Mephibosheth could go down on his knees and then David should walk forward and back to the song, then take him by the hand and lift him up, and lead him back to the palace.
3. Ask the children to discuss the pictures on the activity sheet, then colour them and draw their own picture.

Alternative activities

1. To help the children think about how much we need our feet and legs, play some action games e.g. Simon says, Follow my leader, Grandmothers footsteps. Encourage them to try moving in different ways (depending on the space available), running, jumping, hopping, stamping, walking on tiptoes, balancing on one leg, taking big strides and tiny steps.
2. Draw round the feet of each child or make some painty footprints. Take the opportunity to look closely at the different parts of the foot. Do the children know what each part is called? How many toes do we have? Are our feet the same size? Write a suitable heading to accompany the prints e.g. Thank you God for my feet.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children about any disabled people that they know. Could they do anything to help them? Is there anyone you know locally that they could visit or send a card to? Perhaps the children could sing in a local Old Persons' Home.

Prayer

Ask the children which disabled person or group of people they would like to pray for.

Verse

'Be kind to one another.' Ephesians 4:32.

Song

David was a kind king (Tune: Au claire de la lune)

David was a kind king, helping everyone (twice)
 He brought to the palace
 Jonathan's lame son.
 David was a kind king, helping everyone.

Music: Traditional.